
Apprentice Trailblazer Application

The Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative is designed to create a national network of diverse apprentices and apprenticeship graduates of all ages and backgrounds to feature their stories and hear their perspectives, show how Registered Apprenticeships increase opportunities for underserved populations, and bring awareness to other career seekers who may be interested in becoming apprentices.

A key goal for the first cohort of Apprentice Trailblazers is to focus on youth and create a national network of current youth apprentices (i.e., registered apprentices who are aged 16-24) who have been apprentices for at least 6 months and recent youth apprenticeship graduates (graduates) who have completed their Registered Apprenticeship program within the past 3 years. These youth Apprentice Trailblazers will serve as champions for Registered Apprenticeship by sharing their success stories and promoting Registered Apprenticeship through outreach to youth and others. The Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship is interested in hearing from all apprentices/graduates, especially youth, regarding ideas and suggestions on how to continue to promote, expand, diversify, and strengthen Registered Apprenticeship based on their experience.

Serving as an Apprentice Trailblazer is a professional development opportunity. Apprentice Trailblazers will exercise valuable skills such as teamwork, leadership, and public speaking. They will also have the opportunity to network with stakeholders, engage with Apprenticeship Ambassadors, and cultivate mentor relationships.

*Items noted with an asterisk below require a response.

Criteria: In order to be an Apprentice Trailblazer in the first cohort focused on youth, an applicant must:

- Be a current youth apprentice (ages 16-24) in a Registered Apprenticeship program for at least 6 months or recent youth apprenticeship graduate within the past 3 years from the date the application is submitted;
- Be an apprentice/graduate from a Registered Apprenticeship program in good standing who has shown exemplary leadership, mentoring, teamwork, promotional activities, and/or has a transformative story as an apprentice;
 - Examples of exemplary leadership include but are not limited to starting a peer group to connect apprentices; using social media and other avenues to share their apprenticeship experience and promote Registered Apprenticeship; displaying leadership characteristics during their apprenticeship such as exercising critical thinking, strong decision making skills, and operating as a self-starter; and providing useful feedback on how to improve apprentice experiences such as ways to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility and also increase apprenticeship completion rates.
 - Examples of mentoring include but are not limited to serving as a peer mentor during their apprenticeship; serving as a mentor to incoming apprentices and/or prospective apprentices once becoming an apprenticeship graduate; and serving as a mentor to youth in their community with respect to career development.
 - Examples of teamwork include but are not limited to actively participating in a study group with other apprentices; successfully completing group assignments; and working cooperatively with peers, mentors, supervisors, and/or other colleagues to accomplish tasks.
 - Examples of promotional activities include but are not limited to engaging in outreach and developing new ways to promote, diversify, and expand Registered Apprenticeship.
 - Examples of a transformative story include but are not limited to apprentices that have overcome substantial obstacles while working as an apprentice or have succeeded in advancing their career or quality of life through a Registered Apprenticeship.

- Make a year-long commitment to promote Registered Apprenticeship from the date of appointment as an Apprentice Trailblazer (see Menu of Outreach Activities and Core Expectations below);
- Be currently working in an industry/occupation similar to that in which they completed their Registered Apprenticeship program (if an apprentice graduate);
- Submit a complete application with responses to all required fields and include both the signature of the apprentice/graduate and signature from their Registered Apprenticeship employer; and
- Have a parent/legal guardian provide written authorization for the apprentice/graduate to participate in the Initiative, if the apprentice/graduate is under 18 years of age and is not emancipated.

At any time, the apprentice/graduate, the apprentice/graduate's Registered Apprenticeship employer, or the apprentice/graduate's parent/legal guardian (if the apprentice/graduate is under age 18 and not emancipated) may request to remove the apprentice/graduate's application from consideration or request the apprentice/graduate's withdrawal from participation in the Initiative.

Core Expectations for an Apprentice Trailblazer:

- Apprentice Trailblazers may have their name, title, and the name of their Registered Apprenticeship employer publicized on the www.apprenticeship.gov website and included in press releases.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will attend a kick-off event, either virtually or in-person.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will attend quarterly virtual meetings with DOL Office of Apprenticeship.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will have opportunities to share their perspectives on Registered Apprenticeship and their program experiences.
- Apprentice Trailblazers are expected to complete at least one outreach activity from the Menu of Outreach Activities below.
- Apprentice Trailblazers will work closely with their Registered Apprenticeship employer, who will oversee their participation in the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative and help coordinate completion of any selected outreach activities and these core expectations.
- Apprentice Trailblazers are expected to maintain professionalism, open communication, and transparency with their Registered Apprenticeship employer and DOL Office of Apprenticeship with respect to their participation in this Initiative.

* If selected as an Apprentice Trailblazer, I agree to meet these core expectations.

- Yes
 No

***Apprentice/Graduate's Commitment to the Apprentice Trailblazer:**

Please review the menu below and select the outreach activities that you will commit to perform, if selected to serve as an Apprentice Trailblazer. Apprentice Trailblazers will serve a one-year term (12 months from the date of selection into the Initiative).

▼ Menu of Outreach Activities for Apprentice Trailblazers:

- Serve as a speaker at DOL events or panels promoting Registered Apprenticeship
- Promote Registered Apprenticeship on social media

Please select the social media platforms you intend to use below and provide your username for those platforms.

- LinkedIn

LinkedIn Username

- Twitter

Twitter Username

- Facebook

Facebook Username

- TikTok

TikTok Username

- Youtube

Youtube Username

- Instagram

Instagram Username

- Assist in creating a peer apprentice working group within your organization, community, or industry to promote Registered Apprenticeship
- Provide success stories and testimonials regarding Registered Apprenticeship
- Brainstorm ideas and provide feedback on strategies to help modernize, strengthen, diversify, and expand Registered Apprenticeship
- Educate potential apprentices and career seekers on the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship
- Help recruit additional Apprentice Trailblazers

- Join industry work groups and other activities in support of Registered Apprenticeship
- Provide your photograph and/or a video to display on DOL websites and promotional materials
- Other - list specifics:

* Other - List Specifics

Employer's Commitment to the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative:

- The Registered Apprenticeship employer will be expected to oversee their apprentice/graduate's participation in the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative and help coordinate completion of the selected outreach activities and the core expectations described above.
- The Registered Apprenticeship employer will be invited to participate in meetings with DOL Office of Apprenticeship and may be invited to join Industry Work Groups and other Registered Apprenticeship events, where appropriate.
- The Registered Apprenticeship employer's name may be publicized on the apprenticeship.gov website and included in press releases. Success stories highlighting the apprentice/graduate and their apprenticeship experience may also be featured on apprenticeship.gov and shared with DOL leadership.
- DOL Office of Apprenticeship may invite the Registered Apprenticeship employer to speak at events along with their apprentice/graduate, to share their employer perspective.

✓ Registered Apprenticeship Program Information:

Name of Registered Apprenticeship Program:

RAPIDS Number for Registered Apprenticeship Program:

✓ Registered Apprenticeship Employer Contact Information:

* Name of Registered Apprenticeship Employer:

* Registered Apprenticeship Employer Industry

* Name of Apprentice/Graduate's Supervisor:

* Registered Apprenticeship Employer Address:

* Supervisor Title:

* Supervisor Telephone Number:

* Supervisors Email:

Your Name (If different from Supervisor, Name of Registered Apprenticeship Employer's representative who is submitting information on this form for the Apprentice/Graduate):

Your Title:

Your Telephone Number:

Your Email Address:

✓ Registered Apprenticeship Experience:

* Is the apprentice a current apprentice?

- Yes
 No

* Please provide the month and year for the apprentice's Registered Apprenticeship program start date.



* Is the apprentice an apprenticeship graduate?

- Yes
 No

* Did the apprenticeship graduate complete their Registered Apprenticeship program within the past 3 years?

- Yes
 No

* Please provide the month and year for the apprenticeship graduate's Registered Apprenticeship program completion date.



* Is the apprenticeship graduate currently employed in their apprenticeship industry?

- Yes
 No

* Does the apprenticeship graduate currently work for their Registered Apprenticeship employer?

- Yes
 No

Name of Apprenticeship Graduate's Current Employer:

✓ Apprenticeship/Graduate Contact Information:

* Name of Apprentice/Graduate:

* Apprentice/Graduate's Title:

* Telephone Number:

* Email Address:

you@example.com

Address:

* Country

* Street

* City

* State

* Postal Code

* Is the apprentice/graduate currently age 16-24?

Yes

No

* Did the apprentice/graduate participate in their Registered Apprenticeship program for some duration as a youth, at age 16-24?

Yes

No

* Is the apprentice/graduate currently age 18 and over, or emancipated if under age 18?

Yes

No

* Does the apprentice/graduate's parent/legal guardian give permission for the apprentice/graduate to be an Apprentice Trailblazer?

Yes

No

* Parent/Legal Guardian Name:

* Parent/Legal Guardian Telephone Number:

* Parent/Legal Guardian Email Address:

you@example.com

Apprentice Trailblazer Growth and Development Activities:

- For this first youth cohort, Apprentice Trailblazers will have the opportunity to pair with an Apprenticeship Ambassador as their mentor throughout their participation in the Initiative. Apprentice Trailblazers and Apprenticeship Ambassadors may connect on a quarterly basis to check in on commitment progress, discuss any upcoming events, network, and answer questions. The mentor relationship may also include discussions on future career development.

* If selected as an Apprentice Trailblazer, would you want to be paired with an Apprenticeship Ambassador as your mentor?

- Yes
 No

- All Trailblazers will also have the opportunity to virtually attend meetings and/or events with various Apprenticeship Ambassadors.

* If selected as an Apprentice Trailblazer, would you be interested in attending virtual meetings with the Apprenticeship Ambassadors?

- Yes
 No

∨ **Application Questions:**

Responses can be provided by either the Registered Apprenticeship employer or the apprentice/graduate.

* Why should this apprentice/graduate be an Apprentice Trailblazer?

* Please briefly explain how this apprentice/graduate has demonstrated exemplary leadership, mentoring, teamwork, promotional activities, and/or has a transformative story during their Registered Apprenticeship.

* Does the apprentice/graduate have access to a computer and internet service to support their participation as an Apprentice Trailblazer?

- Yes
- No

If an apprentice/graduate does not have mobile phone/computer/internet access, we recommend the Registered Apprenticeship employer contact the local workforce board or American Job Center for supportive services.

***Acknowledgements:**

Please note that Apprentice Trailblazers may not engage in lobbying for apprenticeship legislation or initiatives on behalf of the DOL. Additionally, being an Apprentice Trailblazer does not entitle the apprentice/graduate, their Registered Apprenticeship employer/organization, or their parents/legal guardians, to any funding from DOL.

A copy of this application, with all completed portions and signatures from the Registered Apprenticeship employer, the apprentice/graduate, and if applicable, the apprentice/graduate's parent/legal guardian, will be shared with all parties.

✓ **Signature Fields for Registered Apprenticeship Employer:**

I understand and acknowledge all the above statements, including the Employer's Commitment to the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative.

I support this apprentice graduate in serving as an Apprentice Trailblazer for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Employer Name:

Your Name:

Your Title:

Signature:

Date:



✓ **Signature Fields for Apprentice/Graduate:**

- I understand and acknowledge all the above statements, including the Core Expectations for an Apprentice Trailblazer and the Apprentice/Graduate's Commitment to the Apprentice Trailblazer Initiative.
- I confirm that all of the information that I provided about myself, including my age, and my Registered Apprenticeship program is accurate.
- I would like to serve as an Apprentice Trailblazer for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Name:

Signature:

Date:



✓ **Parent/Legal Guardian Permission for Apprentice/Graduate:**

- I understand and acknowledge all the above statements.
- I support and give written consent that the apprentice graduate can serve as an Apprentice Trailblazer for the U.S. Department of Labor and give my permission for their participation, including that they may be contacted directly by DOL, current Apprenticeship Ambassadors, and other Apprentice Trailblazers.

Name:

Relationship to Apprentice/Graduate:

Signature:

Date:

